

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/788,584

Examiner

Steven B. Pollicoff

Applicant(s)

VITYE, JEAN

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's response to nonfinal office action 9/14/2006 and telephonic interview 11/30/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7 and 8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/30/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jean Morrin on 11/30/2006.

The application was amended as follows:

Claims 1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (New) A soap holding device comprising:

A) a retaining ring having:

a) an outer periphery having a plurality of circumferentially arranged apertures to evacuate liquids,

b) an inner periphery,

wherein said outer and inner peripheries form an annular channel having a plurality of notches;

B) a cylindrical bottom seat having:

a) an open interior recess,

b) a plurality of releasable notch engagements along an outer portion of said cylindrical bottom seat for engaging with said notches in said annular channel of said retaining ring;

C) a cake of custom shaped soap,

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wherein said soap is retained within said open interior recess of said cylindrical bottom seat and a substantial portion of said soap protrudes up through said retaining ring when said plurality of notches is engaged with said plurality of releasable notch engagements of said cylindrical bottom seat;

D) a peel off adhesive disc pre-glued beneath said cylindrical bottom seat for fixing said soap holding device to a surface.

8. (New) A method of replacement of a cake of custom shaped soap from a soap holding device comprising the steps of:

A) disassembling a soap holding device comprising:

a) a retaining ring having:

1) an outer periphery having a plurality of vertically aligned apertures to evacuate liquids, and

2) an inner periphery,

wherein said outer and inner peripheries form an annular channel having a plurality of notches;

b) a cylindrical bottom seat having:

1) an open interior recess,

2) a plurality of releasable notch engagements along an outer portion of said cylindrical seat for engaging with said notches in said annular channel of said retaining ring;

c) a cake of custom shaped soap,

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wherein said soap is retained within said open interior recess of said bottom seat and a substantial portion of said soap protrudes up through said retaining ring when said plurality of notches is engaged with said plurality of releasable notch engagements of said cylindrical bottom seat;

d) a peel off adhesive disc pre-glued beneath said cylindrical bottom seat for fixing said soap holding device to a surface;

B) removing said retaining ring from said cylindrical bottom seat by turning said retaining ring so as to disengage said plurality of notches from said plurality of releasable notch engagements on said cylindrical bottom seat;

C) removing said cake of custom shaped soap from said open interior recess of said cylindrical bottom seat and replacing it with another cake of custom shaped soap;

D) reassembling said retaining ring onto said cylindrical bottom seat.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose the combination of a retaining ring having circumferentially arranged apertures, a cylindrical bottom seat having an open interior recess securing a cake of custom shaped soap, wherein a substantial portion of the soap protrudes up through the retaining ring when engaged with the cylindrical bottom seat.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven B. Pollicoff whose telephone number is (571)272-7818. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:30A.M.-4:00P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571)272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

46P 11/30/06

SBP



Mickey Yu
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700